

in honoring Sarkis Tatigian, the longest serving federal civilian employee on record.

Currently, Sarkis Tatigian serves as the Associate Director of Small Business Programs for the Naval Sea Systems Command, the largest component of the U.S. Navy. While he was initially eligible for retirement in 1973, Mr. Tatigian has continued to provide decades of selfless service to our country. Mr. Tatigian began his naval career in 1942, when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Junior Inspector of Radio at the Naval Aircraft Factory. Throughout his time with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Tatigian has served multiple tours; served in various units within the U.S. Navy, such as the Navy Bureau of Ordnance Experimental Unit and the Bureau of Naval Weapons; and worked as a Small Business Analyst for the Bureau of Ordnance. In addition, Mr. Tatigian has received numerous awards, including the U.S. Navy Meritorious Civilian Award, and has also had an award named after him for his role in small business, the Sarkis Tatigian Small Business Award.

On September 26, 2017, Mr. Tatigian will have served a total of 75 years of federal service.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Sarkis Tatigian.

**HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLIPPARD WILSON TAYLOR VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3838**

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clippard Wilson Taylor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3838 of Cape Girardeau, Missouri on celebrating their 75th anniversary of serving veterans and their families as well as the community.

The Post was chartered on the 20th day of September, 1942 with 44 members. Since then, it has grown to be one of the largest VFW Posts in the state with a current membership of 590, a strong part of the 1.7 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary nationally.

Post 3838 has been instrumental throughout the years fostering patriotism in many ways which include teaching flag etiquette at local schools and supplying American flags to schools, churches, and parks. The Post shows great comradery amongst their war veterans and strives to assist fellow veterans in need. The members have lobbied successfully for legislation to provide care to veterans and funding for the military.

Throughout their years of service, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3838 have remained loyal and dedicated to their organization, their country, their members, and the community. Therefore, it is my privilege and honor to recognize the Clippard Wilson Taylor VFW Post 3838 on celebrating their 75th anniversary before the U.S. House of Representatives.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARLAN WALDROP**

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a beloved public servant, Marlan Waldrop. After a long and valiant battle with cancer, she is now at peace. Ms. Waldrop served for the last three years as the Director of the Veterans Benefits Administration, Houston Regional Office. As Director of the Houston Regional Office, Marlan was responsible for administering approximately two hundred nineteen million dollars each month in federal benefits to nearly eight hundred thousand veterans and their families living in ninety South Texas Counties, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

Ms. Waldrop began her VA service in December 1990 as a Veterans Service Representative in the Education Division of the Atlanta Regional Processing Office. During her twenty-seven years of VA service, Marlan served in numerous leadership roles including: Instructor for the Challenge 2001 veteran service representative training, Assistant Deputy Director of the Tiger Team in Cleveland, Ohio (2004–2005), Louisville Veterans Service Center Manager (2005–2007), Assistant Director of the Montgomery VA Regional Office (2007–2011), and as Director of the San Juan VA Regional Office (2011–2014).

Ms. Waldrop came to work for the VA because she needed a job, but found a career that allowed her to help improve the lives of our nation's veterans. She empowered her staff "to do what is right for the veteran" and to make the VA a welcoming place. She ensured that her outreach team was accessible to veterans beyond the walls of a VA facility. Marlan is survived by her son, Josh, six hundred sixty dedicated employees at the Houston VA Regional Office, and family and friends.

On behalf of a grateful nation and the tens of thousands of veterans whose lives were better because of her work on their behalf, I rise to remember Ms. Waldrop and her many years of devoted service to our nation's veterans.

**JANYA RAM EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Janya Ram of Sugar Land, TX, for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Janya had to spend at least 80 hours developing and executing a project that would benefit the community and have a long-term impact on girls as well. For her Gold award project, she taught self-defense workshops at the Boys and Girls Club in Stafford. Janya wanted to take the skills she learned in her karate classes and help girls in her community protect themselves in unsafe situations.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Janya Ram for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award. We are confident she will have continued success in her future endeavors. We are very proud.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to my need to be back in my district to help my community prepare for Hurricane Irma, I was unable to be present for Roll Call Votes 467 through 484.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 467; YEA on Roll Call No. 468; NAY on Roll Call No. 469; NAY on Roll Call No. 470; NAY on Roll Call No. 471; YEA on Roll Call No. 472; NAY on Roll Call No. 473; YEA on Roll Call No. 474; NAY on Roll Call No. 475; NAY on Roll Call No. 476; NAY on Roll Call No. 477; YEA on Roll Call No. 478; YEA on Roll Call No. 479; YEA on Roll Call No. 480; NAY on Roll Call No. 481; NAY on Roll Call No. 482; NAY on Roll Call No. 483; and YEA on Roll Call No. 484.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed one vote during a vote series on September 8, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted: No on Roll Call No. 484, on the Pearce amendment (H. Amdt. 361) to the Make American Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act of 2018 (H.R. 3354).

**SEPTEMBER 11TH**

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001 was on a Tuesday.

I remember watching the horrible destruction unfold, and thinking that the world would change for all of us. In those days and weeks after 9/11, Americans from the South Asian, Muslim, and Arab American community were subjected to hate crimes simply because of how they looked. Muslim students were pulled out of school because of fear for their safety, Sikh men were shot at for their turbans, and many of us were told to go home, back to our own country—even though America is our home.

But in the wake of that destruction, I was part of forming powerful coalitions to fight against hate of all kinds and to protect our civil rights and civil liberties.

As we reflect on the events of that day and honor first responders and those who lost their lives, let us also remember that America's true